

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 05342 191427Z

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SUBJ: RABIN INTERVIEW AT CLOSE OF US VISIT

1. FOLLOWING ARE MAJOR PORTIONS OF PERSONAL INTERVIEW WITH PM RABIN PRINTED IN SEPT 16 DAVAR. INTERVIEW, WHICH WAS CONDUCTED BY BARNEA IN WASHINGTON TOWARD END OF REABIN VISIT, DEALS WITH RABIN'S VIEWS ON NATURE OF US-ISRAELI RELATIONSHIP AND IS CLEARLY AIMED AT ISRAELI READERS.

2. BEGIN RABIN.

Q. (ON NEXT STEP IN NEGOTIATIONS).

A. THE VISIT IN WASHINGTON HAS NOT ONLY FAILED TO CHANGE VIEWS ON THE ORDER OF PRIORITIES, BUT EVEN CONFIRMED IT.

3. Q (ON EFFECT OF VISIT ON US ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE.)

A. IN THE MATTER OF PROCUREMENT THERE ARE PROLBEMS THAT REQUIRE A SHORT-RANGE SOLUTION, AND PROCUREMENT PROGRAMS MUST ALSO BE SET UP FOR FARTHER AHEAD. DURING MY VISIT I HAVE CONCENTRATED ON THE CONCRETE SUBJECTS WHICH FALL WITHIN THE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 TEL AV 05342 191427Z

SHORT RANGE, AND WAYS HAVE BEEN LAID DOWN FOR PROCESSING LONG-

RANGE AID. WE SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THAT ON THE SUBJECT OF MILITARY AID AND OF FINANCIAL AID REQUIRED TO RUN PROCUREMENT PROGRAMS, AND ALSO ON ECONOMIC AID, THERE WILL BE NEED IN THE FUTURE--AS THERE HAS BEEN IN THE PAST--FOR A CONTINUOUS STRUGGLE IF WE ARE TO ACHIEVE ALL OUR TARGETS. I DO NOT WANT TO GO INTO DETAILS ABOUT QUANTITIES OR ITEMS WHICH WE WILL RECEIVE. ON THE WHOLE, THE SITUATION IS SATISFACTORY.

4. Q. HAS THE IMPROVEMENT OF US-ARAB RELATIONS AFFECTED ISRAEL'S STANDING IN WASHINGTON?

A. AMERICAN POLICY HAS FOR YEARS SOUGHT TO MAKE THE AMERICAN POSITION IN THE ARAB STATES STRONGER AGAIN. EVEN WHEN I WAS ISRAELI AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON, I TRIED OCCASIONALLY TO WARN THAT THE US DOES NOT REGARD ITS RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL AS ITS EXCLUSIVE MIDDLE EAST POLICY. SIDE BY SIDE WITH CONTINUED SUPPORT OF ISRAEL, THE STANDING OF THE US IN PART OF THE ARAB STATES HAS IMPROVED AFTER THE OCTOBER WAR. IT WOULD BE WRONG TO DISREGARD THE EXISTING AMERICAN CONSIDERATION THAT THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE US IN THE ARAB STATES SHOULD BE CONSOLIDATED. FROM THAT VIEWPOINT, THE EXCLUSIVITY OF THE SUPPORT OF ISRAEL WHICH EXISTED UNTIL THE OCTOBER WAR HAS CHANGED. WE HAVE NEVER PRESENTED THE US WITH THE DEMAND NOT TO ESTABLISH CLOSER RELATIONS WITH ARAB STATES, AS LONG AS IT IS NOT DONE AT THE EXPENSE OF ISRAEL'S VITAL INTERESTS.

5. Q. DO THE US AND ISRAEL STILL THINK ALIKE ON THE SOLUTION OF THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION?

A. I BELIEVE THAT BOTH ISRAEL AND THE US SEE THE WAY TO A SOLUTION OF THE PALESTINIAN SUBJECT IN THE CONTEXT OF ISRAELI-JORDANIAN NEGOTIATION. DURING MY VISIT, I HAVE NOT NOTICED ANY CHANGE AT THIS STAGE IN THE AMERICAN ATTITUDE. AS FOR UN, I DOUBT WHETHER THE US CAN PREVENT THE ASSEMBLY DEBATE ON THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE. I HOPE THAT THE US WILL NOT SUPPORT THE GRANT OF SPECIAL STATUS TO THE PLO. THE SUBJECT CAME UP DURING OUR DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON.

6. IN MY OPINION, THE US WILL BE UNABLE TO PREVENT AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION ON THIS SUBJECT BEING ADOPTED BY A LARGE MAJORITY BECAUSE ONE MAY TAKE IT THAT THE COMMUNIST BLOC, THE AFRO-ASIAN BLOC AND TO A LARGE EXTENT THE EUROPEAN

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 TEL AV 05342 191427Z

COUNTRIES WILL SUPPORT THE POSITION OF THE ARAB STATES... NO RESOLUTION THE UN MAY ADOPT ON THE PLO WILL RESULT IN THE SLIGHTEST CHANGE IN ISRAEL'S POLICY, WHICH REJECTS THE ASSOCIATION OF THE PLO WITH ANY NEGOTIATIONS ON A SOLUTION OF THE ISRAELI-ARAB DISPUTE.

7. Q. (ON EFFECT OF ARAB OIL ON US POLICY IN MIDDLE EAST.)

A. THE EXISTENCE OF THE THREAT OF A RESUMPTION OF THE EMBARGO

ON OIL SUPPLIES AFFECTS IN PARTICULAR EUROPEAN AND JAPANESE FOREIGN POLICY, AND TO A LESSER EXTENT AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY. THE PRICE OF OIL, THE THREAT OF INTERRUPTIONS OF OIL SUPPLIES AND FINANCIAL POWER THAT IS BEING BUILT UP IN THE OIL PRODUCING STATES ARE A FACTOR THAT IS BEING TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY. STILL, I DO NOT THINK THAT IT IS THE ONLY OR MAIN FACTOR IN US MIDDLE EAST POLICY. HOWEVER, I NEED NOT ADD THAT THIS FACTOR DOES NOT WORK IN ISRAEL'S FAVOR.

8. Q. DOES THE PRIME MINISTER THINK THAT ISRAEL HAD REASON TO BE ANNOYED ABOUT RECENT OCCURRENCES IN WASHINGTON?
A. I ASSUME THAT THE REASONS FOR ANNOYANCE, AS FAR AS I KNOW THEM, ARE CONNECTED WITH THE CHANGE IN THE SYSTEM OF RELATIONSHIPS OF THE US WITH THE MIDDLE EAST THAT OCCURRED AFTER THE OCTOBER WAR. UNTIL THAT WAR, THE PUBLIC HAD THE FEELING THAT WE WERE THE US' " ONLY SON" IN THE MIDDLE EAST. IT IS A FACT THAT THAT IS NOT SO NOW. PERHAPS SOME REMARKS OF AMERICAN SPOESMEN EVEN HELPED INCREASE THE ANNOYANCE OF THE ISRAELI PUBLIC. WE MUST SEE THE SITUATION AS IT IS, NAMELY, THAT THE US HAS NOW A MUCH GREATER REAL INTEREST IN SEEING TO ITS RELATIONS WITH THE ARAB STATES AS WELL.

9. WE MUST ALSO BEAR IN MIND THE PRACTICAL MEANING OF SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL TODAY, PARTICULARLY IN ALL THAT CONCERNS FINANCIAL AID, WHICH NOW ASSUMES ABOUT FIVE TIMES AS LARGE DIMENSIONS AS WAS USUAL UNTIL THE OCTOBER WAR. I BELIEVE THAT IN SPITE OF THIS, THE SYMPATHY FOR ISRAEL WHICH

EXISTS AMONG THE AMERICAN PUBLIC WILL ENABLE ISRAEL TO ACHIEVE THIS INCREASE IN ITS DEMANDS. END RABIN.
VELIOTES

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